

Geological time scale

This task is about reading information from a geological time scale.

Use the Geological Time Scale to answer these questions.

Era	Sub-era	Age Millions of years ago
Cenozoic Cz	Quaternary	1.64
	Tertiary	
Mesozoic Mz	Cretaceous	65.0
	Jurassic	145.6
	Triassic	208.0
Paleozoic Pz	Permian	245.0
		290.0
	Carboniferous	
	Devonian	362.5
	Silurian	408.5
	Ordovician	439.0
		510.0
	Cambrian	
		570.0

a) What is the oldest 'Era' shown on this scale?

b) What is the most recent 'Sub-era'?

c) How long did the Permian 'Sub-era' last? million years

d) A group of dinosaurs called Stegosaurus roamed the Earth between 188 and 65 million years ago.

What was the main 'Sub-era' they lived in?

e) What does the z stand for in the abbreviation Pz?

f) Why do scientists use abbreviations for time periods?

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